PEQUOT





Published Quarterly by the Pequot-Sepos Wildlife Sanctuary, Incorporated MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT

The Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary

INCORPORATED
MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT

CURATOR WILLIAM WYLIE

A CONSERVATION PROGRAM OF EDUCATION AND RECREATION FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

WHAT IS THE PEQUOT-SEPOS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY?

The Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the state of Connecticut for the purpose of promoting a community program of conservation education. The program includes work for the preservation and restoration of our natural resources.

It is a unique community enterprise in that it is supported entirely by interested citizens through memberships and contributions.

THE PEQUOT-SEPOS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY:

Maintains 125 acres of land for the purpose of teaching others the ways and values of protection and restoration of our birds, wildlife and other natural resources.

Maintains a trailside museum and a series of nature trails which tell the story of nature in a most instructive and fascinating manner.

In cooperation with the schools, girl scouts, boy scouts, community centers and other youth organizations, promotes a program of conservation education for children.

Conducts a year around program of field trips and activities for members.

Operates a bird-banding station in conjunction with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and cooperates with state and local conservation agencies.

Through personal guidance of the Curator, serves as a source of information and help on local and national conservation problems.

Furnishes information relative to the value of conservation to many individuals and organizations through correspondence, the press, and lectures.

Pursues a long range development program that insures a permanent and increasingly beneficial service to all local communities.

PEQUOT TRAILS

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No. 2

Annual Meeting—1959

The annual meeting of the Sanctuary was held June 28. Despite the chilly rainy Sunday, twenty-four members were present at the Trailside Museum. Mrs. Malcolm MacGregor, President, presided over this 13th annual meeting. In the election of officers which followed, these people were elected or re-elected for the coming year:

Mrs. Malcolm D. MacGregor, Presi-

dent.

George A. Ford, Jr., Vice President Mrs. Barry Dench, Secretary

Captain Nelson Pickering, Treasurer The members, elected or re-elected to the Board of Trustees are:

Mrs. Robert Anderson Mrs. Hugh L. M. Cole Wilson Domer Agustas Peterle

Mr. Wylie, our Curator, who is now starting his third year here, has augmented his sanctuary work again this year by teaching school classes in 5th and 6th grades in Jamestown, Wakefield, and Westerly, Rhode Island, on many varied natural history subjects.

The regularly scheduled bird walks, especially keyed to the season, hours of daylight, and bird migration, throughout the year, came to approximately 80 walks this year. This number does not include the very many Curator-led field trips and lectures, given to garden clubs, school classes, scout troups, church groups, and various other clubs and organizations, all which give evidence to another busy sanctuary year.

Three special trips were announced by Mr. Wylie for the summer—the Pachaug States Tree Nursery at Voluntown, Connecticut, the State Trout Hatchery at Perryville, Rhode Island, and the Parker River Federal Waterfowl Refuge at Newburyport, Massa-

chusetts.

Plans for a new, winterized museum building to be built at Pequot-sepos were described and pictured at this annual meeting. Those having visited the Massachusetts Audubon's fine Pleasant Valley Sanctuary Trailside Museum at Lenox, Massachusetts in the Berkshire Hills will be familiar with the building we hope to adapt to our own use here. A group of sanctuary members made a special trip to this Pleasant Valley Museum before the annual meeting, to better understand its construction, design and serviceability.

The guest speaker for this afternoon was Mr. Alfred M. Hawkes, Executive Director of Rhode Island Audubon Society. He used colored slides of outstanding quality to illustrate his theme. "What Conservation Is." Mr. Hawkes showed the roll of various types of plant and animal life in the world of living things, stressing especially, the dependence of animals on plants because of plants' singular ability to change raw materials (air, water, minerals) into useable food, by means of chlorophyll and sunlight. This dependence of animals on plants to manufacture food, and the necessity of predators to feed on other animals, brought out by Mr. Hawkes, showed how Nature was ever in a constant struggle to keep balanced, fighting against overpopulation of certain forms of life. The speaker's audience was easily able to see how the work of man in the field of natural science, either conservation or destruction, was an important factor in nature's balance.

Fall Field Trips to Begin On Saturday, Sept. 5

The response to the Sanctuary sponsored Spring and Fall Saturday morning field trips has been most rewarding. The trips have proved quite popular and the birding has been up to expectations. These off-the-Sanctuary trips are designed primarily for birds

PEQUOT TRAILS

Published quarterly, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter, by the Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc., Mystic, Conn.

A Statement of Purpose:

We want this publication to be of the utmost service to you—to keep you informed concerning activities at the Sanctuary and in your community; to invite your participation in these activities; and to provide you with general articles of education and inspiration regarding conservation subjects. Won't you drop us a line and tell us what you would like to see published? We would appreciate it.

William Wylie, Curator Tel. Mystic JE fferson 6-9248

and other forms of wildlife and not for the express purpose of visiting unique and interesting spots of scenic interest. Since these trips are conducted during the spring and fall migration periods, the bird life can be expected to change from week to week. For example, if you were to visit Napatree Point every Saturday during September and October you would find that the bird population, as to species and numbers, would change continuously. This will, it is hoped by your Curator, explain the reason for visiting the same place more than once during the spring or fall.

Your Curator will welcome any suggestions for possible field trips in the future. An effort is being made to conduct these trips to places where the birding is known to be good. Undoubtedly, some good areas are being overlooked. It is up to you to inform the Curator of these other spots. This will be your only official notice of the Fall field trips, so mark your calendar now. An effort will be made to have these field trip notices in the Mystic section of the New London Day and the Westerly Sun on the Thursday preceding each trip.

Sept. 5, 7 a.m.—Napatree Point.
Sept. 12, 7 a.m.—Barn Island.
Sept. 19, 7 a.m.—Napatree Point.
Sept. 26, 7 a.m.—Point Judith and
Block Island.

Oct. 3, 7 a.m.—Kimball Sanctuary
Oct. 10, 7 a.m.—Bluff Point.
Oct.17, 7 a.m.—Harkness Memorial
Park.
Oct. 24, 7 a.m.—Napatree Point
Oct. 31, 7 a.m.—Mystic River.

Saturday, Sept. 5, Napatree Point 7:00 a.m.

Napatree Point is well known to birders and non-birders alike. It is a haven for migrating shore birds in both spring and fall. The first part of September should be about perfect for these shore birds. Leave the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:30 a.m. or meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot of the Watch Hill Yacht Club. Come prepared to walk two or three miles along the sandy beach.

Saturday, Sept. 12, Barn Island 7:00 a.m.

The Barn Island trips were very popular last fall and spring so it is only natural that they should be conducted again this fall. Local people can meet at the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:45 a.m. or on the Barn Island road at 7:00 a.m. Turn off U. S. No. 1. on the Greenhaven road and take the immediate right to Barn Island. Official starting point will be at the R.R. crossing on this road.

Saturday, Sept. 19, Napatree Point 7:00 a.m.

This is the second of three trips to Napatree this fall. The physical arrangements for this trip will be the same as for the trip of September 5. Two weeks later should show a marked change in shore birds and other migrants on this area. Your Curator made a number of personal early morning trips to Napatree last fall and had exceptional luck. Join this trip and see for yourself.

Saturday, Sept. 26, Point Judith and Block Island 7:00 a.m.

The Block Island part of this trip is going to be a joint effort with the Hartford Bird Study Club. The object of going to Block Island is not to bird on Block Island but to try for pelagic birds from the ferry on the trip out and back. This trip will leave the Sanctuary parking lot at 7 a.m. and should arrive at the Point Judith area near 8 a.m. Our group will cover this area ex-

tensively till ferry time. The Block Island ferry leaves Point Judith at 11 a.m. and arrives at Block Island at 12:15 p.m. The ferry then leaves Block Island at 2 p.m. arriving back at Point Judith at 3:15 p.m. The round trip fare is \$3.00 per person. It is suggested that all those participating in this part of the trip come prepared with a box lunch, beverage, suitable clothing, etc. You will be required to cover your own expenses, of course. People not wanting to take in the Block Island part of this trip may cover Point Judith with the group, then return home in time for lunch.

Saturday, Oct. 3, Kimball Sanctuary 7:00 a.m.

The Kimball is one of the Rhode Island Audubon Society Sanctuaries and has been a sanctuary for nearly thirty-five years. It is located about three miles off U. S. No. 1 opposite the Charlestown Naval Air Station next to Burlingame State park. This trip will leave the Pequot-sepos parking lot at 6:30 a.m. and should arrive at the Kimball near 7:00 a.m. This area should be good for late fall migrants, as well as having one of the best developed bird feeding stations known to your Curator.

Saturday, Oct. 10, Bluff Point

7:00 a.m.

The Bluff Point trip proved highly successful this spring so is going to be held again this fall. A combination of land birds, shore birds, and waterfowl should combine to make this one of the better trips of the series. Leave the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:45 a.m., or meet at the Groton Town Hall, Poquonnock Bridge, at 7:00 a.m. Mr. Walter J. Morgan will again be the leader for this trip.

Saturday, Oct. 17, Harkness

Memorial Park
Harkness Park is a favorite birding spot of many of our New London members. Trips to the park in the past have proved worth while so it has now become an annual event. Leave from the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:30 a.m. or meet at the parking lot at Harkness at 7:00 a.m. This park is located on Great Neck Road, Waterford.

Saturday, Oct. 24, Napatree Point 7:00 a.m.

This is the third and last trip to Napatree this fall. The same arrangements hold for this trip as for the first trip on September 5. The shore birds should be fewer in numbers by this time, but definitely different as to species. Some early arriving waterfowl should also be observed by this time.

Saturday, Oct. 31, Mystic River

7:00 a.m.

A trip to check the bird life on and around the Mystic River at this time of year should be interesting. Many migrants should be in by now. The trip will start from the Sanctuary parking lot and the exact route will be planned at that time. Join us here, and let's get a good count on the river.

The President Speaks

A lot of work has been done to keep our membership file accurate and up to date. If there is any mistake in your address, please advise us. At our annual meeting it was announced that we had 532 paid members. Our goal for this year should be 600 members. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please urge them to join. Also, it would be greatly appreciated if members who have not paid their dues for this year would do so. It takes time and money to send out second notices. What an achievement if we could eliminate this.

Purple Martin Box to Be Moved

The purple martins have given positive proof of increased use of your Sanctuary. The martin house is now located out behind the Museum and quite near the parking lot. The birds were disturbed last Summer by the many people using the Sanctuary. The martins returned this spring, but did not nest. They were seen almost daily but never used the house. This fall, the martin house will be moved to the flat between the Duck Pond and the road. This is a quiet undisturbed spot, and should encourage the return of our martins next year.





Trailside Museum of the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Lenox, Mass., owned and operated by the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

The Proposed New Building

As was mentioned on the post card announcing the annual meeting of your Sanctuary, a new Trailside Museum building is needed and is being contemplated. The reasons for this new building are many and varied and your Curator will now try to outline these needs and uses briefly.

First of all, the present Trailside Museum is housed in the old Denison barn. It would be highly impractical to try to heat this building, so the Museum is at the mercy of the New England weather. This means that the

Museum is open but five months out of the total year, and often many of those days are clammy and uncomfortable. Also, the present Museum situation is not conducive for holding meetings of Garden Clubs, camp groups, or others.

The building pictured above is of the general type and design that is being considered for our purpose. The building first and foremost, will be a year-round Trailside Museum. The building will, of course, be heated. The size of the new building will be approximately thirty by sixty feet and will be of wooden construction on a poured concrete slab. The waney-edged siding will fit in nicely with the other buildings on the Sanctuary. The internal lay-out

of the new Museum will be of such that it can easily and quickly be converted to hold classes or meetings of fifty plus people. With more effort, on occasion, it could be used as a lecture hall which could seat a hundred people. The easy seating of fifty people would accommodate any garden club, school class, Sanctuary sponsored courses, or other organization wanting to use the facility.

It is planned by your Curator to use this building heavily in conjunction with school classes. A heated building such as this, would permit school classes from schools all over southeastern Connecticut and near-by Rhode Island to come to the Sanctuary on a planned program throughout the year. In this way, your Sanctuary would influence thousands of school children and many adults in the cause for conservation and better citizens for tomorrow. Garden clubs and others would be able to use the building all year around and the public and membership in general would get more use out of the Sanctuary by having this winterized Trailside Museum and multiple purpose building.

Herbicides —

Friends or Foes

The Connecticut Arboretum has recently published a bulletin entitled "A Roadside Crisis: The Use and Abuse of Herbicides." In view of the drastic effects on the vegetation brought about by the improper use of chemicals by various towns in southeastern Connecticut, this bulletin should be of considerable local interest, as it describes techniques which minimize damage to our native flora, including wild flowers and ornamental shrubs, while giving optimal results with respect to the elimination of the undesirable woody growth.

It is essential that local citizens protest the despoilation of our roadsides. Your town selectmen are the people to contact. This bulletin can be called to their attention. Copies are available from the Connecticut Arboretum for ten cents apiece.

Quoting from the bulletin:

"The vegetation along the shoulders of our highways and roadsides is essential to the right-of-way both as a stabilizer of the soil and as a pleasant and restful margin to the countryside beyond. The management of this vegetation presents a series of important maintenance problems, involving appreciable portions of our highway budgets.

The discovery of herbicides—chemicals which effectively, and in some cases selectively, eliminate plants to which they are applied—has provided a powerful and economical tool with which to manipulate the vegetation. Like many other new developments their use may be of great public benefit, but their abuse may lead to unfortunate consequences. The indiscriminate application of herbicides to thousands of miles of our roadsides has resulted in the unnecessary elimination of many of our beautiful native shrubs and wild flowers.

We feel that herbicides should be used with discrimination, keeping the various objectives in mind—safety and health of motorist and pedestrian, the beauty and interest of the roadside and the economy of highway maintenance. The purpose of this bulletin is to present constructive suggestions for the correction of some of the abuses of herbicides. It should be emphasized that there are many types of roadside situations and that methods should be intelligently adapted to each particular situation.

Highway departments are anxious to give the public good service. Some of them are spending large sums of money on ornamental plantings and even on research as to the best methods of re-seeding native species along our roadsides. It seems pathetic that these efforts should be negated by the improper use of herbicides. It is the duty of the highway department to do the best job it can, and the eivic responsibility of the enlightened citizen to see that this performance is up to standard."

Richard H. Goodwin Director

Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1959

Receipts	'58-59	'57-'58 30 June '57
Cash on hand, Washington Trust, 30 June '58	\$ 1,493.54	\$ 597.85
Membership dues (incl. 3 life)	3,905.00	3,509.00
Special Gifts	852.00	561.80
Trading Post Sales (including tax)	1,773.26	2,298.89
Screen Tours	121.31	1,541.30
Repair Barn Fund		1,592.80
Sale of Christmas Wreaths	296.48	213.21
Tea	74.61	
New Year's Dance	1,824.00	835.21
Curator's Teaching Fee	750.00	500.00
Miscellaneous	31.10	72.42
Total	\$11,121.30	\$11,772.48
Disbursements		
Salary Curator (incl. bonus, Blue Cross, etc.)	\$ 4,345.59	\$ 4,060.54
Maintenance (museum, barn, shed)	426.18	678.45
Educational Program	48.50	158.70
Screen Tours	27.60	1,427.27
Screen Tours, accrued admission tax	94.76	
Postage and Printing	444.29	314.77
Telephone and Electricity	146.37	127.52
Tools and Equipment	320.03	541.37
Trading Post Supplies	1,133.92	1,205.59
Taxes and Insurance	163.44	171.25
New Year's Dance	769.27	463.48
Miscellaneous	108.06	30.70
Note, Interest, Move Curator, Unpaid Bills		1,099.30
Total	\$ 8,028.01	\$10,278.94
Cash, Washington Trust, 30 June 1959	2,793.29	1/
Three Life Memberships, Savings Bank	300.00	
Grand Total	\$11,121.30	
Statement		
Fiscal Year Ending 30	June 1959	30 June 1958
Assets		
Cash in Washington Trust Company	\$ 2,793.29	\$ 1,493.54
Savings account, Groton Savings Bank	771.40	453.93
Petty Cash, Trading Post	50.90	50.00
Stock Inventory, Trading Post (cost)	534.71	396.37
Pickup Truck (depreciated)	150.00	225.00
Tractor, lawnmowers, tools, etc. (depreciated)	226.00	200.00
Account Receivable (final payment teaching)	750.00	
Total	\$ 5,276.30	\$ 2,818.84
Liabilities	φ σ,=σ	Ψ =,=====
Accounts Payable	None	\$ 12.00
Net Worth	\$ 5,276.30	\$ 2,806.84
Trading Post		
Sales, 30 June '58 to 30 June '59		\$ 1,773.26
Stock and cash on hand 30 June '59		585.61
		\$ 2,358.87

Stock and cash on hand 30 June '58 Purchases 30 June '58 to 30 June '59	\$ 446.37 1,133.92	
	\$ 1,580.29	\$ 1,580.29
Profit before Sales TaxSales Tax		778.58 26.93
Net Profit		\$ 751.65
	1959	1958
New Year's Dance Profit	\$ 1,054.73	\$ 380.18
Curator's Teaching Fee	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 500.00

Hawk Migration Field Trip Planned

The observation of migrating hawks in the fall of the year is one of the more interesting facets of bird watching. Hawks are not commonly observed in day to day birding by the average person, so that learning to identify the various species is quite difficult. Many above-average birders are almost at a complete loss when it comes to the

birds of prey.

There are many places in eastern North America where it is not uncommon to be able to observe several thousand hawks in a single day. Of course, the weather conditions must be absolutely perfect to get a flight of this magnitude. Your Curator has talked at length with some of the more active members of the Sanctuary and plans have been formulated for a hawk trip this September. Plans to visit Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania were discussed, but the uncertainty of foretelling in advance the weather conditions, the right time for the good flights, and the distance involved, have ruled Hawk Mountain out for this year. Instead, a more flexible plan has been agreed upon.

Mount Tom, near Northampton, Mass., has good flights of hawks in September, and it is only about three hours driving time from the Sanctuary. Again, we run into the same difficulty of trying to call our shots in advance as to when to make the trip. So, we are not going to try to plan the trip in advance. Instead, your Curator is asking all persons interested in mak-

ing a trip to Mt. Tom during the first three weeks in September, to contact him by telephone; (JE fferson 6-9248). These names and phone numbers will be recorded and the interested parties will be notified by phone the day be-

for the trip is to be made.

This is the way the system should, theoretically, work. The Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary is at the base of Mt. Tom. Ed Mason, Curator at the Arcadia, has been there for some twenty plus years and knows about as much as anyone in the area about these hawk flights. It is hoped that Ed will be able to call the day for us. When the wind and other conditions look right for the following day, Ed will your Curator a call. Your Curator will, in turn, call all those persons who have expressed their interest, and the trip will leave from the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:00 the next morning.

These arrangements will not be suitable for all interested persons. This has been taken into account, and it is still felt that this is the best possible plan. It is possible that more than

one trip will be made.

A person, even an experienced person like Ed Mason, cannot be expected to be absolutely correct in his prediction. If we make the trip to Mt. Tom and the flight does not materialize, the day will be spent birding at the Arcadia Sanctuary and along the Connecticut River. It is suggested that all persons taking this trip bring a box lunch and beverage.

Again, if you are interested in a hawk migration trip, please contact your Curator. He can't call you if you

don't call him!

TRADING POST

THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS, AT PRESENT, OF INCREASING YOUR SANCTUARY INCOME. ONE IS THROUGH ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIPS, AND THE OTHER IS THROUGH TRADING POST SALES. SUPPORT YOUR SANCTUARY BY PATRONIZING THE TRADING POST.

TRADING POST HOURS

Tuesday through Saturday	10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

CLOSED MONDAY

Stationery and Note Paper	\$1.00
Golden Nature Guides	1.00
Children's Games	1.00
Carved Animals	3.50
Audubon China:	
Cups	1.00

cups	2.00
Saucers	1.00
Salad Plates	1.00
Dinner Plates 8" (Round or Square)	2.00
Dinner Plates 10"	2.25
The second second was a bounded to bound the second	2.00

Sunflower Seed

Wild Bird Mix

Bird Feeders

PLUS ASSORTED ITEMS

YOU AND MEMBERSHIP IN THE PEQUOT-SEPOS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Members, now totaling over 600, reside in eighteen states and the District of Columbia.

Membership is open to everyone. The present membership includes both amateurs and professionals in natural history subjects and many who recognize the Sanctuary's educational influence in community life.

Four members are elected to the Board of Trustees annually to serve for terms of five years each. The Officers of the Sanctuary are elected annually by the Board of Trustees.

BECOME A MEMBER OR GIVE NOW! On the bottom of this page you will find a form for your membership application or contribution. All memberships include a subscription to our quarterly bulletin, *Pequot Trails*, and have the privilege of participation in all scheduled events.

TAKE AN ACTIVE PART! Opportunities will be offered for participation in field trips, Sanctuary visits, committee work and many other activities.

HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY to affiliate now with an organization actively engaged in the promotion of a worthy community program of conservation education and recreation.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary		
Mystic, Connecticut	Date	
Please enroll me as a member of the Pequot-se, 19 I enclose payment	pos Wildlife Sanctuary for the year ending for the class of membership checked below.	
() Regular: \$5.00 annually () Organization: \$10.00 annually	
() D) Sustaining: \$25.00 annually	
() Contailed as as) Life: \$100.00	
Corporation or Industrial Annual Contribution \$		
Signed M		
(PLEASE SIGNIFY WHETHER MR., MRS., OR MISS)		
Permanent Mailing Address		

Please make checks payable to "P.S.W.S., Inc." and mail to The Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary, Mystic, Connecticut

Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc. Mystic, Connecticut

Miss Hazel A. Johnson Connecticut College Library New London Connecticut

